THE INTERNATIONAL TEACHING CENTRE
BAHÁ'Í WORLD CENTRE

6 October 2008

Transmitted by email

Mrs. Zebiniso Solieva
Continental Board of Counsellors
in Asia

Dearly loved Co-worker,

By now you will have received a copy of the letter dated 28 September 2008 written on behalf of the Universal House of Justice to the National Spiritual Assembly of Turkmenistan regarding the incident in the Mary cluster in June.

The House of Justice was pleased to see the enthusiasm of the friends to teach the Faith and the courage and steadfastness they have demonstrated under difficult conditions. These events, however, show that the friends are still working under certain restrictions and must be cautious in their activities. As you will note from the 28 September letter, the National Assembly is being asked to consider, in consultation with the Counsellor, the forms of teaching that are best suited to the conditions in that country and to encourage the friends to carry these out with confidence and vigour.

The National Assembly has also been advised that there would appear to be no reason for them to seek an explanation of the specific provisions of Turkmen law on religious activities, as a reading of the law seems to suggest that it offers sufficient latitude for them to continue their activities, albeit with wisdom and discretion. For them to seek an official list of those activities that are allowed would create the risk that someone in the government could decide to interpret the law more narrowly, and they would then be required to obey this more restrictive ruling.

Please proceed to arrange a meeting with the National Assembly, following which we would appreciate receiving a report on the results of your consultation. To assist you in preparation for this meeting, we are enclosing copies of relevant documents: two emails of 20 June addressed to two of our members from Counsellor Delafruz Nassimova and an email of 2 July addressed to the Supreme Body from the National Assembly.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

The International Teaching Centre

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Enclosures 3

cc: Board of Counsellors in Asia
Dr. Delafruz Nassimova

bc: The Universal House of Justice
(Refer to your memorandum, Wizard 852198)
Ms. Uransaikhan Baatar
Dr. Ayman Rouhani

Index: 852198
Enclosure: 842820, 842821 (both cfd), 843495
Backup: 842824 (cfd), 852192
Draft initialled by: AR, UB, SH, SB, ZR
PJA/sbc-me

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